SEPTEMBER–OCTOBER 1979
Volume 70, Number 5
Seventy-five Cents

California GARDEN

SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION
EVENTS

Sep 13 & every Thursday

CHRISTMAS WORKSHOP with Beverly Kulot
Commences Thursday, September 13th and every Thursday thereafter. 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
San Diego Floral Asso. Garden Center Headquarters
Casa del Prado, Balboa Park
Call Mrs. Kulot 222-5480 for information

Sep 18 & 25, Oct 2 & 9

FLOWER ARRANGING CLASSES with Martha Rosenberg
Tuesday, 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon, Casa del Prado, Room 101
Call Mrs. Roland Hoyt for reservations—296-2757

Oct 6, 7 & 8

Fourth Annual Flower Show—"BEAUTY AND THE BEASTS"
Sponsored by the "San Diego Floral Association" and the "Wild Animal Park"
Saturday, Sunday & Monday 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
San Diego Wild Animal Park, San Pasqual, Calif.

Oct 16

SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION MEETING
Tuesday, 1:30 p.m., Casa del Prado, Room 101
Program: "Seasonal Flower Arrangement Demonstration" by Frances Louise Bode
Mrs. Bode from Sacramento, is a lecturer and teacher of The Art of Flower Arranging and Design. She is a member of San Diego Floral Asso., a national accredited judge, author of "Creativity of Flower Arrangements", and a member of many arranger's organizations in northern California. Her articles have appeared in "Better Homes and Gardens", "Golden Gardens", "Desert Magazine", and many other publications.

Oct 23 & 30, Nov 6 & 13

FLOWER ARRANGING CLASSES with Adrienne Green
Tuesday, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., Casa del Prado, Room 101
Call Mrs. Roland Hoyt for reservations—296-2757

OTHER EVENTS/SHOWS

Sep 15 & 16

SAN DIEGO BROMELIAD SHOW
Majorca Room, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park
Saturday & Sunday, 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Free

Sep 22 & 23

EXOTIC PLANT SOCIETY SHOW
Majorca Room, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park
Saturday & Sunday, 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Free

Sep 29 & 30

SAN DIEGO BONSAI FALL "MINI" SHOW
Majorca Room, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park
Saturday—10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Sunday—10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Free
Demonstrations and lecturers both days

Oct 6 & 7

BALBOA PARK AFRICAN VIOLET "MINI" SHOW
Majorca Room, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park
Saturday—11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sunday—10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Free

Oct 20 & 21

SAN DIEGO ORCHID SOCIETY FALL "MINI" SHOW
Majorca Room, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park
Saturday—12 noon to 5:00 p.m. Sunday—10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Free

Oct 20 & 21

NORTH SAN DIEGO COUNTY ROSE SHOW
North San Diego County Rose Society presents its 13th Annual Rose Show
Escondido Village Mall, Escondido, Calif.
Saturday—1:00 to 6:00 p.m. Sunday—11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Free

Oct 28

CONVAIR GARDEN CLUB CHRYSANTHEMUM FALL AND VEGETABLE SHOW
Majorca Room, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park
Sunday—1:00 to 5:00 p.m., Free

Nov 3 & 4

SAN DIEGO TROPICAL FISH & KOI POND SHOW
Majorca Room and Patio "A", Casa del Prado, Balboa Park
Saturday—1:00 to 6:00 p.m. Sunday—11:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Free

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Volume 70 Number 5

Cover

Robert Francis is an accomplished photographer/illustrator whose work has appeared in *The Herbalist, House Plants & Porch Gardens, The Family Food Garden, Organic Gardening and Farming, The Family Handyman,* and *Modern Bride.*

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SUGAR SNAP

by *Allethe Macdonald*

The Gourmet Pea

'SUGAR SNAP' WON the All-America Gold Medal for 1979 and it has captured the attention of gardeners like no other new vegetable of recent years. This last spring, conversations among gardeners almost without exception included the question, "Have you tried those new edible pod peas?"

This new pea named 'Sugar Snap' is the latest version of the edible pod or snow pea that has been grown for centuries in the Orient. This familiar ingredient in Far Eastern cookery is often called the Chinese pea.

The new cultivar, however, resembles the common garden pea more than the flat-podded Chinese pea. 'Sugar Snap' pods fill out early, becoming round and fat as the peas inside mature. At this stage they are even sweeter and more flavorful than when younger and smaller. On one occasion I found a few pods, missed in earlier picking, that had begun to wrinkle and change from pea-green to greenish white. I shelled the peas and then decided to try cooking the pods as well. It was surprising to find that these over-mature pods were just as tender and tasty as the younger ones, though not as attractive in color.

Cultivation is the same as for regular garden peas or sweet peas. In coastal areas it is well to begin preparing the planting trench no later than the beginning of September. Dig a trench, preferably running north and south for maximum sun, and 14 to 18 inches deep. Mix in some organic material, fill with good garden soil to within 3 or 4 inches of the top, and soak well. If the soil has dried out since the first preparation soak again and let it mellow a few days before planting the seed.

One should soak the seeds until the wrinkles disappear, but not more than 8 hours. Plant 2 inches apart, cover with 1 to 1½ inches of soil, and tamp lightly to be sure there are no air pockets. Do not water again until the soil surface begins to dry.

Plan to give the vines 6 to 8 feet of support for climbing. One of my friends had to use a stepladder to pick peas from a vine that had climbed her neighbor's orange tree.

The sprouts start breaking through in 12 to 14 days and at this time they must be protected from snails, slugs and birds. The snowy white blooms appear in pairs, and within 70 to 80 days the pods will be ready to eat. They are especially good eaten raw as picked from the vine if one cannot wait to put them in a salad or on a hors d'oeuvre plate to eat with a dip. To prepare the pods for eating it is necessary only to remove the strings. Using a small knife make a cut at the tip of the pod and string toward the stem end and down the other side. The process goes quickly.

My favorite method of cooking is to steam the pods whole until tender-crisp, but one may stir-fry them plain or with slivered chicken, turkey or ham. 'Sugar Snaps' are highly productive for about 3 months and if there are more than can be used fresh, they freeze well.

Peas are gross feeders—give them light feedings every 10 to 14 days after they start producing. They also like inoculated soil. Plant in the same trench year after year since the nitrogen-fixing bacteria are there. If planting into a new area spade in a shovel full or less of soil from last year's trench to give the peas a better start.

I recommend that you find a spot somewhere in the garden, in a large planter box or even in a 16-inch parking strip as I did last year, and plant a row or just a half dozen seeds so you too may enjoy this gastronomical treat. □

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SODIUM HARMFUL TO PLANTS

IN MOST CASES, water passing through a softener has a harmful effect on plant growth. Softeners exchange the calcium (harmless) for sodium (harmful).

Sodium is harmful because it tends to puddle a soil (make it sticky) and sodium can be toxic to plants that are sensitive. However, if you have a water softener, don't worry because there's a simple trick to eliminate the soldium hazard.

Since the softener takes calcium out, you can add calcium to the water to restore that which was present before softening removed it.

This simply nullifies the effect of the sodium added in the softening process. Here's all you do: Go to your garden center or farm store and buy some gypsum (calcium sulfate), a very cheap and harmless form of calcium. It has low solubility yet can be dissolved to treat softened water.

One-half level teaspoon is added to a gallon of softened water or a tablespoon per six gallons of water is enough to supply the necessary calcium to change the softened water back to the "unsoftened" water.

This simple little trick will (or should) settle the controversy over water softeners. You can draw enough water off for your house plants and add gypsum to it, thus eliminating any risks.

The cost is so little and gypsum is such a harmless source of calcium that many home gardeners use it on their gardens to help loosen up a claylike soil. □

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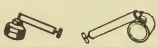
GARDEN SPRAYERS

by *George James*

IT IS OFTEN necessary to use a sprayer for applying insecticides, fungicides, herbicides, or liquid fertilizer. If one's sprayer is tiresome to use or does a poor job of application, the chance that the project will be successful is slight. The purpose of this article is to describe and evaluate the different kinds of sprayers available, so the gardener may select the one that best suits his needs and, having bought one, will understand how to operate and care for it.

• SINGLE ACTION PUMP SPRAYERS



These are sprayers that emit spray when the pump is operated; the flow is not continuous. Some pumps are operated by squeezing a handle; others by a back and forth arm movement. In either case, one soon tires of squeezing or pushing and pulling. Such equipment is not for use where large areas are to be covered. The spray stream emitted is not very forceful so will not penetrate dense foliage very well. Applying spray material to the lower sides of leaves, where many pests are, is nearly impossible if plants are growing in the ground where foliage is low. This type of sprayer is satisfactory with a few plants growing on a raised area, or for spot treating small infestations in the garden until more adequate equipment can be brought in.

• HOSE-END OR SIPHON SPRAYERS

These sprayers attach to the end of a garden hose. As the stream of water from the hose goes through the sprayer it passes across the small venturi tube which is set at right angles to the stream from the hose and reaches to the bottom of the sprayer jar. The stream of water creates a suction which draws the mixture from the jar. It then mixes into the stream and a spray of the proper concentration results. There are many sizes and shapes of these sprayers but all are so made that when a prescribed number of gallons of water have passed over the venturi tube the jar will be emptied. This number is usually indicated by a figure in the name of the sprayer, as Blank 4 Sprayer, whose jar would be empty when 4 gallons of water has passed through the sprayer. In this sprayer

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(GARDEN SPRAYERS continued from page 135)

the proper dilution would occur when enough concentrate for four gallons was placed in the jar and the jar filled with water. More than one kind of material can be used at one time by putting the specified amount of material for 4 gallons into the jar and then filling it with water. In such a case it is wise to heed the precautions on the original containers to be sure all used are compatible.

It is possible to mix less than four gallons of spray. This is done by putting enough concentrate for the desired amount of spray into the jar, two gallons for example, and filling the jar on the sprayer to the two gallon mark. When this is done, the material from the jar will be mixed with two gallons of water, giving the proper dilution.

There are hose-end sprayers that can be adjusted, by means of a device at the venturi tube, to spray concentrations of from 1 to 10 teaspoonful to a gallon of water. By another simple adjustment the dilution rate may be changed from one to 10 tablespoonsful to the gallon. In that kind of a sprayer the concentrate is put into the jar undiluted and the dial is set for the desired dilution. When the job has been completed, the unused concentrate can be returned to its original container.

If more than one kind of a liquid concentrate is to be used, the concentrates are combined in the jar in the proper proportions. For instance, if one concentrate dilutes at the rate of one teaspoonful to the gallon, and another at two teaspoonsful to the gallon, load the jar with one part of the first to two parts of the second. Again observe the printed precautions that are given for combining two or more pest control chemicals. This sprayer cannot be used to apply dry materials. It would take so much water to thin them enough to pass up the venturi tube that they would be too diluted to be effective when mixed with the spray stream.

The metering type of sprayer we have been discussing has a valve that can shut off the spray stream. Other siphon sprayers also have valves but there is a kind with a hole above the venturi tube. When this hole is covered with a finger, the material from the jar is drawn into the spray stream. When the hole is uncovered, air is drawn into the water, so the spray stream is only water, which is coming from the sprayer all the time. Thus it is possible, unintentionally, to wash the spray film off plants that have already been properly sprayed.

Siphon sprayers can be divided into two classes: those for the application of insecticides, fungicides and herbicides and others for liquid fertilizers and thick-bodied materials. The fertilizer applicators have venturi tubes of greater diameter so they are less likely to clog. They usually lack a shut off valve, which is not needed when used as intended. They produce a coarser spray, of large drops, that will not stay on plant leaves as a fine mist will do.

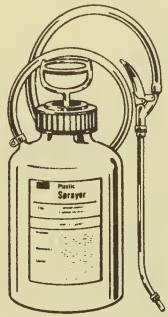
These sprayers also have a deflector on the nozzle which breaks the spray stream into smaller drops. It can be turned to direct the spray upward, downward or sideways, whichever will make the spraying easiest. When the deflector is removed, a straight stream results, which is useful in reaching the tops of tall trees.

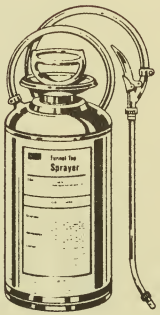
To operate properly, all siphon sprayers must be kept clean. Materials used in them leave a thin deposit in the venturi tube. If this is allowed to accumulate, the diameter of the tube becomes so small that the solution cannot get through. They should be cleaned after use by back flushing, with the sprayer still attached to the hose. Remove the deflector, which slips off easily. Cover both the nozzle and air vent in the top of the sprayer with your fingers and turn the water on very slowly, forcing it to go down through the tube into the jar, washing out any accumulation. (This operation would be easier if we were born with three hands.)

While using these sprayers, watch the level of the fluid in the jar to be sure it is being drawn out and mixed with the water. This may not happen if there is a clogged tube or the water pressure is so low that there is no suction when the stream goes over the venturi tube. Low pressure in some areas may be due to size of the water mains, elevation of area, or number of users. There is little one can do about these conditions. Low pressure may also be caused by a hose that is too long or too small in diameter or by water running at too many places. Hose-end sprayers can only be used in areas that can be reached with garden hose, whose dragging movement is restricting and may break tender plants. Not all thick control materials can be applied through a hose and the spray stream from even the best of siphon sprayers is coarse. Much of it will drip off the plants and be wasted. The answer to these problems is fairly obvious—the use of

another type of sprayer.

• COMPRESSED AIR SPRAYERS

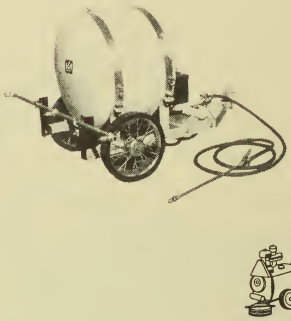




These are tanks into which the diluted spray solution is placed. Air is then compressed on top of the solution by a pump operated by hand or by a piston. When these are kept pumped to full capacity, a fine, mist-like spray is delivered. Tank sizes are available from one to several gallons in capacity, the smaller being lighter to carry. They come equipped with a flexible hose that has a control valve, beyond which there is a tube or extension with a nozzle at the end. The nozzle can be adjusted to a very fine spray or to a coarse stream for high trees. The entire nozzle rotates 360 degrees, so it can be set to spray under leaves or to cover the tops of plants. The fine spray, which is most often used, and the positive control given by the valve, make these the most economical sprayers available to the home gardener. A recent experiment by the writer showed that three gallons of spray in a compressed air sprayer will cover as large an area as 10 gallons in a siphon type sprayer, and do a better job of covering the plants.

Some chemicals used in today's pest controls react very strongly to iron tanks. The metal disintegrates and, in a short while, holes appear in the tank, while the rust caused by the disintegration clogs the nozzle. Plastic and stainless steel tanks, not affected by the chemicals, are a wiser choice. Kits containing parts that are likely to wear out or be lost are available for some brands of sprayers. It might be well to check on this before buying.

• OTHER SPRAYERS



Owners of large gardens might investigate motor driven sprayers. These come with either gasoline or electric motors that take much of the work out of spray application and do a better job than other sprayers mentioned. Mounted on wheels, they are easily moved. The hose has an adjustable nozzle for streams of different degrees of fineness. The tanks usually have a 10-gallon capacity, but smaller quanities can be mixed in them. A power driven agitator keeps the spray solution properly mixed, so the concentration is uniform.

Those with large areas to spray or with extensive dense plantings will find the employment of commercial spray firms worthwhile. These firms can check serious pest conditions and implement a preventive pest control program. Some local conifers are subject to pests that are best controlled before the damage is seen. A commercial sprayer will know when to treat and what materials to use, and will have equipment adequate for the job. Early preventive treatment will greatly reduce or even eliminate damage to valuable mature trees. The firms and their operators are licensed by the state and their equipment is inspected to ensure it meets state standards.

• SUMMARY

Selection of the best mechanism for pest control is a big step on the way to greater garden satisfaction. □

Ed's note: A related article by Mr. James appeared in the May-June 1979 issue.

MINIATURE POOLS

by *Skipper Cope*

Hydrocleys commersonii (water poppy)

SINCE THE EARLY DAYS of man's existence on earth fresh water has been a symbol of abundance. As civilizations have flourished, died, and been reborn, pools and fountains have been an integral part of man's architecture, landscapes, and gardens. The feeling of serenity and calm induced by the proximity of fresh water is undoubtedly an unconscious response to memory of the time when the presence of fresh water meant abundance and freedom from hunger to our earliest ancestors.

As our present civilization has grown space has become more precious. The large pools and waterfalls of the past are no longer feasible except in public parks. But don't despair, a miniature pool can introduce the serenity of water into a patio or small garden. The unexpected beauty of a waterlily blooming in a small pool beside a garden path can be breathtaking. This exciting experience is not at all difficult to achieve. The only essentials are: a container, water, miniature plants and a minimum of care.

Careful placement is necessary to achieve the most effective result. These little pools are expected to reflect only a bit of sky or to add a touch of color. They are not intended to be focal points in the garden. Search for an unused corner with a lush foliage background where you can, if space allows, group three to five little pools for an unusual effect. If used above ground or on the patio, place a few potted plants nearby to soften the outlines of the containers. Some rocks or driftwood will naturalize the containers' appearance. Remember, they depend upon intimacy and surprise for their excitement and pleasure.

Water lilies are popularly associated with pools and it is hard to resist their beauty. Their lovely exotic flowers always delight the eye but, unfortunately, most of them require greater water depth than we are discussing here. Among the hardy and tropical water lilies are a few miniatures that can be used. Remember though, even miniature water lilies need a minimum depth of eighteen inches. For shallower pools there are many other aquatic plants that are extremely attractive—water poppy, water snowflake and floating heart, for example.

Prefabricated bowls can be purchased in many materials: stone, metal, plastic, and concrete. Large buckets or tubs are available, or salvaged items such as discarded laundry tubs can be used. Half barrels, so popular lately, make excellent pools. They are the maximum size we are suggesting. When partly sunk into the ground or to about three inches below the rim they are extremely attractive.

Plant your selection in four to six-inch pots, using a heavy clay soil rich in humus and manure. The soil should be damp while planting so it can be firmly pressed around the roots to keep them from working loose when placed in the water. Avoid leaf mold,

Tropical water lily ready for planting

peat, or silt. They dirty the water and do not pack well. A layer of sand or gravel on top of the containers helps to keep the soil from rising in the water. Little bags of fertilizer may be placed on the pots once or twice during the summer to sustain bloom. Let the water stand in the containers for two or three days before placing the plants in them.

Adding a couple of ordinary goldfish and two or three water snails will keep the pool free of mosquitoes and reasonably clean of algae. Keep the water level up by adding fresh water, (very slowly to avoid lowering the temperature suddenly), arrange for a minimum of four or five hours of sun, keep the plants well fertilized and that's all there is to it. Vagaries of the weather, be it rainy or dry, hot or cool, create no problems. Aquatic plants don't care a bit.

A far greater variety of plants is available today for these pools than even a few years ago. A few of the plants usually in stock in aquatic nurseries are listed here:

Water lilies–(hardy) 'Gloriosa', 'Helvola', 'Hermione', (tropical) 'Daubena', 'Capensis'.

Other aquatic plants–water iris; water lettuce, *Pistia stratiotis*; *Cyperus haspan*; water poppy, *Hydrocleys commersonii*; water snowflake, *Nymphoides indica*; floating heart, *N. peltata*. □

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Vegetable of China

WHEN THE CHINESE came to the Western World, they brought with them an intriguing variety of green leafy vegetables. Over the years some of these, such as bok choy and Chinese cabbage, have become so accepted that they are commonly sold in many supermarkets; other kinds are still found only in Oriental markets.

Bok choy (Chinese white cabbage) is a tender-crisp, sweet, very mild vegetable. It is good plain or with beef, chicken or shrimp. To prepare: cut off the root end and separate the stalks. Remove any tough leaves; wash stalks and cut leaves/stems in 2 to 3-inch strips, about ½-inch thick.

Chinese cabbage (Chinese 'napa' cabbage) has a mild, delicate flavor, and crisp texture. It may be used raw in salads, cooked plain, or in soup. It is prepared the same as bok choy.

▪ STIR-FRIED CHINESE GREENS with Beef

Thinly slice one pound of lean boneless beef (such as flank steak or top round) into 2 to 3-inch strips. Heat one tablespoon of oil or margerine in a wok or frying pan; add meat. Cook until rare. Add approximately four cups of Chinese greens and three tablespoons of soy sauce. Stir fry over a high heat until crisp tender. (Serves 4)

Variations: Additional vegetables may be added or used in any combination with basic recipe. Green peppers, green onions, mushrooms, celery, eggplant, and/or bean sprouts. Depending on number of added vegetables use from ½-cup to 1-cup each. Add additional margerine as needed to prevent burning, and additional soy sauce to taste.

Pork, fowl or seafood may be used in place of beef.

For a complete, delicious Mongolian dinner, serve with steamed rice and hot tea. A Chinese fortune cookie delights all as a finale. □

Chinese cabbage

bok choy

菜

ACOUSTICAL FERNS

by *Ada Perry*

AN APARTMENT dweller I knew used asparagus "fern" to screen off plane noise, freeway noise and that of a well used one-way street.

For a fact, most experienced gardeners wouldn't give asparagus fern that much credit. This one does have help from a six-foot board fence and some surrounding light screening from landscape trees.

But the asparagus ferns deserve credit and serve as a filmy background for plants such as zonal geraniums for winter color, regals (pelargoniums) for spring color and richmondensis begonias for color the year around.

So screened in is this lady of the garden she wakes up and goes out to greet her plants in a dressing gown. The noise of the city may be in muffled tones all around her, but she can enjoy her six by ten space as if it were a country garden. When she isn't out there it comes into her rooms though two sets of patio doors.

Her asparagus ferns are not the usual kind. I used quotations marks when first writing the expression because it should be asparagus plants instead of ferns. In spite of the fluffy, ferny summer tops of even eating asparagus, this plant group is no more fern than artichokes. It just looks "ferny" and most of us are willing to settle for that since ornamental members look ferny the year around.

One is *Asparagus falcatus* with the enlightening name of sickle-thorn. It used to be planted to cover pergolas and lathhouses and provide summer fragrance "from tiny unseen flowers." Evidently with those uses no one got hooked by the intensive spines.

It could travel forty feet and this talent helped resurrect it from the back lot of an old-time nursery in the 70's. "Forty feet and those spines!" yelled the owner of a large home. "Gimme all you've got. I'll teach those so-and-sos to climb my chain link fence!"

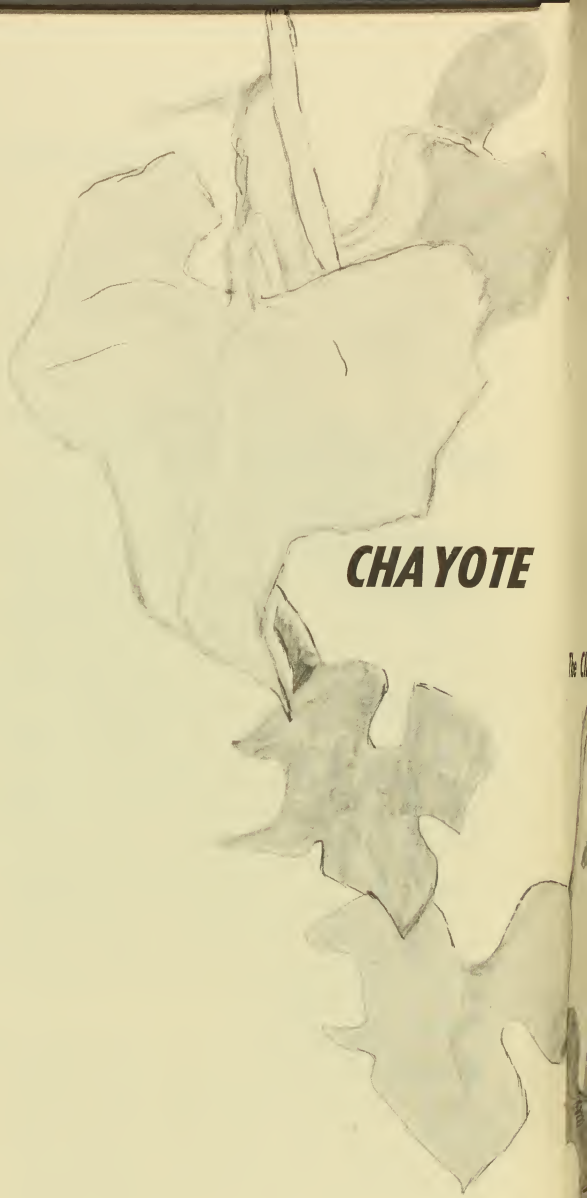
Our apartment gardener keeps the plant under control. As we have noted she doesn't have forty feet for it or anything like that. Unusual things have happened in the little enclosed patio where all plants are in containers. *A. falcatus* is in a fairly large one, but as with all asparagus ferns, those long toothlike white roots started pushing up and using all the soil. Nothing daunted, our heroine got some metal edging such as is used for rose basins, bound it on top of the container and added soil. Only an asparagus fern would stand for this and falcatus was pleased to accept it.

In another position there is a tall plant of *A. retrofractus* which looks like a fluffy little tree six to eight feet tall, so much so that new home owners used to want to plant it in the front yard like a conifer. But it is much too tender for that. It keeps warm in this cozy little patio very nicely. It also has used up a rather large container, developing a soiless pillar of roots above the edge. This time the lady of the garden got some midget fence wire, secured it around the root mass and tucked in tufts of hanging basket moss plentifully. Another acceptance by the long-toothed roots which approved the moisture-holding moss.

A pretty picture here with red-leaved *Iresine herbstii* or bloodleaf growing up from another container among the delicate green-needle branches. This plant has earned another common name in our climate from its admirers—perennial coleus.

I'd say asparagus ferns are not only a great suggestion for apartment and condominium dwellers but for people with climbable fences. □

CHAYOTE



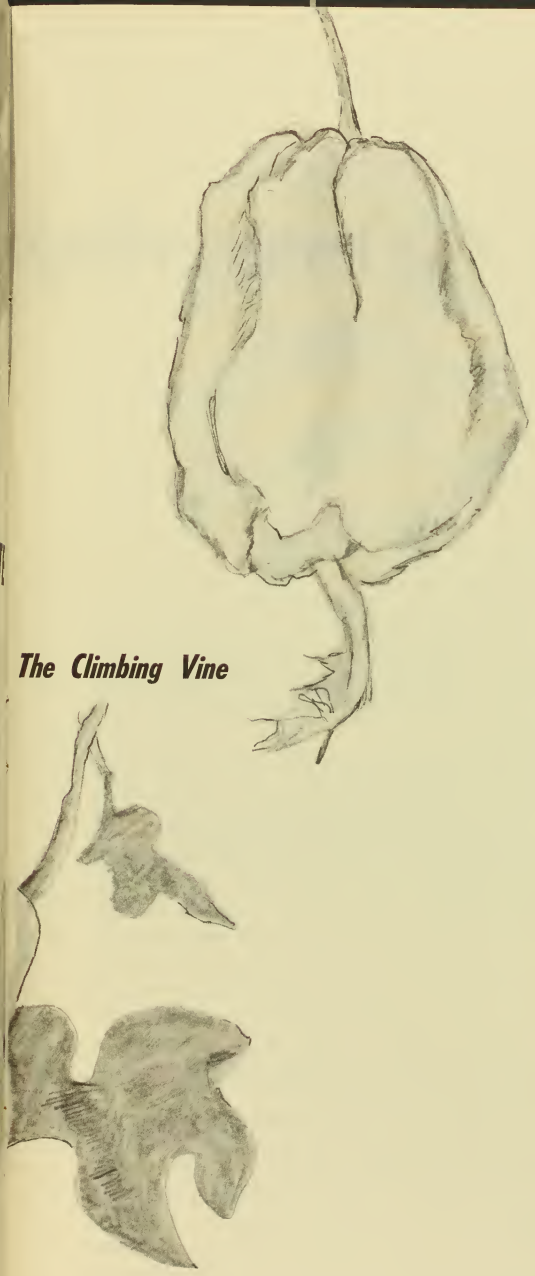
MEMBER OF THE vast gourd family, chayote is a squash relative of delicate charm. Pale green in color, its pear shape is pleated vertically, the extra skin neatly gathered and tucked inside for a taut look. But chayote is easily peeled and below that thin layer is a moist, cool, almost white flesh that will add crisp (cucumber-like) crunchiness to a raw salad, or oriental texture when added to the final minute of a stir-fry feast. Chayote also blends well with cheese, and can be baked into a marvelously smooth vegetable dish.

Chayote's appeal is not limited to its edibility. The vine itself is a most attractive, large-leaved climber, which theoretically should enhance any wall or fence. It is quickly grown and decorative. Alas, it also has its own ideas about where to grow, and this includes a decided preference for any nearby tree, shrub, or other tall growing thing. Chayote, at least in my garden, displays complete disdain for the neighboring white board fence upon which I had hoped to train it with lures of nails, dried branches and other protruding surfaces. All were ignored, while a bauhinia, still a staked sapling, proved irresistible. Eager tentacles quickly reached out and wound tightly around the new growth. Only constant vigilance and a ruthless pruning of the vining tendrils spared the unwilling host—which blossomed magnificently in gratitude.

Even iris spires provided a first approach to my olympic climber, which then unhesitatingly straddled a pair of *Podocarpus macrophyllus*. Having scaled their tops, the acrobatic vine immediately leaped upon an overhanging carob branch.

All of this jungle growth developed at a vigorous summer pace, and soon the vine had festooned itself over large portions of carob and podocarpus. It was now September, and although the vine seemed in exuberant health, there was not a trace of fruit. Nervously I searched the lower stems, but chayote blossoms (unlike squash) are undistinguished, diminutive and easily missed.

In mid-October, the first chayotes appeared in the produce markets. Then, while scanning our carob, I noticed dangling from a topmost branch, two hefty, fully ripened specimens. Alerted to their presence, I was able to detect several others in various stages of growth, but invariably they were concealed by foliage—their own or that of the carob! Perversely they appeared only on the newest and highest portions of the vine. Nor were they stably located; their



The Climbing Vine

by *Sharon Siegan*

weight, gravity and/or the vine's own inclination, often dictated a shift in position.

It is now mid-November, and our vine has parented some ten chayotes of good weight (almost a pound apiece), and there seem to be others in the making. Although the chayote is perennial in this climate, I am not certain that we will be having any next year except as I purchase them at the market. This vine may be cut down in its prime unless it can be coaxed into a new habitat—the fence. Besides, it has been a poor producer if *Western Garden Book* prediction of 200 or more fruit per season is realistic.

If you are still keen on chayotes and would like to meet the challenge of the olympic climber, this is the procedure to follow. First, buy yourself a chayote. Now you have several options. You may, as I innocently did, eat the fruit, carefully saving the seed. When ripe, the seed pierces the bottom of the pear shape and then begins to split, revealing new life. At this point I planted my seed directly into the ground and watched it germinate. This is not accepted practice, however, as I was advised by Rosalie Garcia. She gifted me with two mature chayotes, admonished against my eating them, because "the fruit is what nourishes the seed." The two pregnant chayotes were duly set out in early spring, within a foot of their already nicely sprouted relative. Their growth was accelerated in the post-rainy season and they soon overtook the "seed." But they did not climb. Perhaps because they were too far away to reach a shrub or tree, they twined upon the ground, fastening upon low-growing plants, with tendrils ever searching.

These two vines also refused the fence. And they refused to bear fruit. (The latter because in all likelihood, they couldn't get high enough to reach the sun.) However, they may well have fertilized my runaway climber, because *Sunset Western Garden Book* does advise planting more than one chayote to ensure pollination.

Overall, the demands of chayote are simple and easily met. Select a sunny spot within reach of a trellis, lattice fence or any tall growing thing. Now, if you follow *Sunset*'s recommendation, plant the entire fruit edgewise in the soil, with sprouted end at lowest point, neck end protruding. *Sunset* recommends February or March, by which time your sprout may be already vining. If it is, cut it back to one or two inches. Water generously. Then sit back and await your autumn harvest. Alternatively you may just plant the seed—whenever it begins to split. □

the monastery-

ALONG SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA's coastal strip it grows up to fifty feet in just one season—which really is very fast! It is a vigorous clinging vine which has the botanic name *Cobaea scandens*, and is variously known by three different popular names: Monastery-Bells, Cup-and-Saucer Vine, and Mexican Ivy.

Not only is it very fast: it also is very beautiful—in both foliage and flower. And best of all, it is NOT one of those messy annual vines which die after blooming and leave a tangle of dead vegetation to be cleaned up. Rather, it is a true perennial in our coastal climate; it lives on and on, year after year.

The foliage is attractive and unusual in that it features pointed leaflets in matched pairs, the leaf terminating in long curling tendrils which enable the vine to climb trees, fences, and/or trellises without any need of help from the busy gardener. Each leaflet is a glossy brilliant green while young, but with time develops an attractive pattern of rusty-red spots.

However, the flowers of *Cobaea scandens* are its major highlight—partly because they change color, partly because they are beautiful in shape, partly because each individual blossom lasts a full week, partly because the bloom season is very long in duration, partly because the blooms are outstanding as cut-flowers for arrangements, and also because when each individual blossom finally fades and drops from the vine, an interesting saucer-like calyx remains as a sort of substitute blossom for many weeks thereafter. Surely the flowers of no other plant species can boast all those attributes!

Each blossom is bell-shaped (hence the common name Monastery-Bells) and is about two inches long. Each one has its own sturdy upright stem (properly called a peduncle) which is up to a foot tall, and each bell-shaped blossom is set in a saucer-shaped calxy, hence the common name Cup-and-Saucer Vine. For a full day after opening, each blossom is uniquely green in color. On the second or third day thereafter, the blossom changes to deep violet or rose-purple, except that in the cultivar which is called 'alba' the color changes from green to pure white.

Because of their gracefully-curved stems, because of their attractive calyx bases, and because of their beautifully-shaped blossoms of various colors, the bloomstalks of *Cobaea scandens* are ideal and unusual features for use in artistic floral arrangements. They also are most valuable as conversational items when used in floral centerpieces for the luncheon or dinner table.

Cobaea scandens is native to Mexico. For that reason, and because it is a vine, it is called Mexican Ivy. But actually it is not an ivy; it is a

bells vine

by *Bill Gunther*

Upper right: This photo shows the slightly-arched stem of a turned-purple, three-day-old flower of Cobaea scandens, together with the paired leaflets and the long tendrils of the species.

Lower right: Long after the beautiful blossoms of Cobaea scandens have faded and dropped off, the highly-accentuated curves of the peduncles still direct dramatic attention to the shapely calyxes which persist for many weeks.

Photos by Bill Gunther

member of the phlox family. In California, seeds of *Cobaea scandens* should be planted shallowly in early spring, in a warm sunny location which is somewhat protected from high winds. The seedlings will blossom during their first summer, and thereafter will bloom intermittently from May through October every year. In California, *Cobaea scandens* seems to be almost completely immune to insect pests, to bacterial diseases, and to viral diseases.

Because of all its positive features, *Cobaea scandens* truly is a most worthy addition to any southern California garden which can offer a big and sunny climbing space for a very special vine. □

"Bringing flowers indoors from the garden"

by *Adrienne Green*

Long Lasting Cut Flowers

THOSE OF US who enjoy bringing flowers indoors from the garden often inquire, "How long will they remain fresh in an arrangement?" In southern California there are many plants which provide both long-lasting beauty in the landscape and long-lasting beauty inside the home. The following are among the favorites.

Spuria iris, which comes in many shades including white, yellow, bronze and blue, blooms in the spring or early summer. Flowers form on the sides of the tall stiff stems. These are best cut when a bud is showing color. Each day one or more flowers open, the process going on for at least a week. The removal of faded blooms each morning will keep the arrange-

ment new and neat.

Spurias multiply into handsome clumps of narrow green leaves up to five feet in height. They enjoy either full sun or light shade, rich soil and ample water.

Pleasing combinations in a border are groups of stately spurias behind blue or white agapanthus, which bloom shortly after the spurias. The rich green leaves of the agapanthus help conceal the maturing spuria foliage, which gradually loses its color and finally must be cut down.

Agapanthus or lily-of-the-Nile is an evergreen perennial in southern California. It sends up lofty stalks crowned by showers of blue or white florets. The dainty individual flowers open in succession. As with the spurias, daily grooming by removal of the spent blooms increases the attractiveness of the arrangement.

Agapanthus plants grow well in sun or light shade and best in loamy soil with moderate watering. Every five or six years is often enough to divide these garden favorites.

Hemerocallis or daylily is similar to spuria iris and agapanthus in that one flower follows another. If you snap off faded blooms every morning an arrangement will guarantee many days of pleasure.

Daylilies are particularly useful for the home garden because they are adaptable to almost any kind of soil, to sun or part shade, and are practically pest free. Their lush mounds of thin flexible leaves send up flower stalks off and on the year around. Daylilies combine well with agapanthus, iris and marguerites.

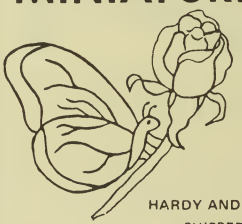
The marguerite, *Chrysanthemum frutescens*, offers an abundance of pink, white or yellow daisylike flowers. Some varieties are double. A tiny rooted plant set out in early spring in full sun will grow rapidly into a bush four feet tall and broad. Excellent for a quick show in yard or in containers on the patio. They are splendid as cut flowers, lasting a week or longer in the house.

Best growing conditions for marguerites are light soil, moderate watering and good drainange. Old plants become leggy and should be replaced every two or three years.

Strelitzia, or bird-of-paradise, an evergreen perennial with large blue-green leaves, produces spectacular blossoms. The kind most useful for cutting is *Strelitzia reginae*. The lasting quality of these flowers is superior and it is no wonder that designers are fond of their striking sculptural forms, which strangely resemble tropical birds of orange, blue and white. Strelitzias benefit from frequent feedings and prefer to be left alone to multiply. Above the crowded foliage the "birds" rise and appear to fly against the sky.

Proteas, native to South Africa, are grown successfully in many areas of southern California. As a family they are fascinating to the arranger, since many kinds of fresh proteas age into exquisite dried forms. The protea family is a large one and includes the many varieties of banksia as well as the proteas. Instead of giving only a week or two of pleasure an arrangement of one of these may last for years if allowed to dry. □

McDANIEL'S
MINIATURE ROSES



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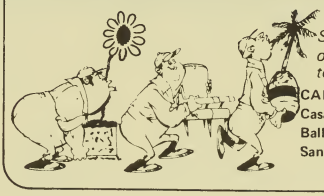

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Gardenia Thunbergia

by *Roland Hoyt*

Right: Gardenia Thunbergia

Drawing by Dorothy Landon

NO AMOUNT of talk about gardenias' being easy will convince the coastal gardener who has tried them and failed. *Gardenia thunbergia*, though not necessarily easy, is at least easier than the more familiar varieties. It will tolerate a more neutral soil and needs less heat for good growth, though it is even more demanding of warmth for blooming.

It is an open-growing shrub, sometimes 10 feet tall with a 20 foot spread, with large, almost black-green, pointed leaves up to six inches long. Stiffly branching and fairly sparse in foliage, this slow-growing gardenia increases in vigor and bloom production with age.

The extremely fragrant white flowers appear in late summer. Three to four inches across, they consist of 8-12 single, widely flaring petals overlapping in a windmill effect, surrounding yellow stamens with filaments combined at the end of a long tube. To avoid objectionable ordors, fading flowers should be removed.

Like all gardenias, *G. thunbergia* performs best in acid soil, but this seems not to be too important here. Rapid drainage is a primary requirement for successful growth. Place it to receive heat but not much direct sun after mid-day, preferably against a warm wall which will give off heat overnight. Mix peat moss or fir bark into the planting mixture. Feed with a balanced commercial fertilizer bimonthly from March through September, and treat for chlorosis with iron sulfate or iron chelates (probably never necessary if grown in heat). Mulch—don't cultivate.

This plant, rigid from the beginning, never calls for propping; the main stems become trunk-like in time. It requires some attention to pruning, clearing out of interior wood, and especially guidance of branches, since, once in place, they cannot be warped easily to change. It is somewhat tender in frost, and has a weakness for brown scale; chewed leaves will probably indicate the presence of rose weevils. None of these is a serious drawback.

Gardenia thunbergia must be regarded as an unusually choice plant for the garden. Unfortunately, it is rarely available and, in fact, scarcely known. Be sure to acquire a budded or grafted plant since it will be much more satisfactory and will come into bloom much earlier in life. □

SCENTED GERANIUMS

by *Josephine Gray*

I HAVE LIVED HERE almost long enough to begin with "Once upon a time" there were many geraniums here—all zonals, all beautiful—salmon, pink, white and bright red. I knew that besides these there was rose geranium, because my mother always put a leaf of it in her apple jelly, but the rest of the geranium world was still undiscovered by me. I began to make cuttings of the ones I had and was so successful that my interest led me to search nurseries and books for more information. The nurseries were very limited in their selection, but once interest is aroused one becomes a detective; a question here, an answer there can lead one down all sorts of paths. The most delightful one for me was the discovery of the scented geraniums and the fascinating world it opened up; they have a charm no other geranium has.

After nearly a century of neglect, as the taste for Victorian things returns, the scented geraniums bring up a pleasant nostalgia. They came originally to England from the African Cape in about 1632, and by 1795 navigators had imported many kinds. The plant-loving British instantly fell in love with them and grew them everywhere, in greenhouses, cottage gardens and manor houses. Before the Revolutionary War they were brought to this country and, due to their unique form and fragrance, they became favorites of geranium lovers.

One of the first I acquired was the dainty little nutmeg, I don't know that it smells especially like nutmeg—it has been a long time since I smelled a freshly grated one—however, it is spicy and fragrant and its small scalloped round leaves are as velvety as a kitten's ear. It is a sturdy plant and grown in the earth makes a compact round bush. Its flowers are negligible as are the blossoms of most of the scented plants. There are two exceptions which come immediately to mind, 'Clorinda' and apricot. Neither of these smells like the scent attributed to it, 'Clorinda', a glorious bright cerise with large blossoms, doesn't smell like eucalyptus to me nor does the soft rosy apricot remind me of apricots, but both are fragrant, call them what you may. Both of these geraniums are worth cultivating in your garden, for their blooming season is long and glorious, and they are fine cut flowers.

One fragrance you will not mistake is cocoanut. This willing little plant will make an excellent ground cover if given half a chance. On a warm sunshiny morning walking on a carpet of its small round leaves releases a heady cocoanut fragrance. These make fine plants for a hanging basket, for they take both sunshine and shade. Another good plant for a pot or a hanging basket is the bright green peppermint geranium, *Pelargonium tomentosum*. It must have shade however; if grown in the earth in a shady place it will attain trememdous proportions and is unbelievably beautiful. Sometimes the leaves are as big as your hand. When rubbed between the fingers they give off a sharp minty fragrance.

One of the nicest things about geraniums is that they can be kept within whatever bounds you like by judicious pruning. An unusual ground cover may be made from 'Trailing Oak', which is low growing and, as its name suggests, of trailing habit. With a little pruning and feeding and ordinary care, it will become a worthwhile cover in six months. It has a neat little habit of tucking all its dead leaves under the foliage to make a mulch. This too is a good plant for a hanging basket.

One of the most pleasant of the fragrant geraniums is the apple scented, it truly does smell of apples and it is a beautiful little plant with scalloped round leaves about the size of a half dollar. It is a soft velvety green and is one of the few geraniums which cast seed. The first time I saw this I could scarcely believe it. I was visiting a plant which was growing in

Scented Pelargonium, 'Sweet Miriam'

Scented Pelargonium, 'Fragrans Variegated'

Photos courtesy San Diego Geranium Society

the partial shade of a large-leaved succulent, and when I lifted a leaf to cultivate, there were five or six well grown apple geranium seedlings. I have never found the seed, but a number of times since then I have found seedlings, sometimes far from the mother plant. Cocoanut geraniums will do this too; and I don't know of anything more pleasant than to be handed this kind of bonus, something you didn't work for that is just handed to you as a gracious gift.

There are about twenty-five varieties of rose geraniums, but the ones with which we are most familiar are, 'Rober's Lemon Rose', 'Camphor Rose' and 'Skelton Rose' or 'Doctor Livingston'. This is the one we usually think of when we say "rose geranium", though 'Red-Flowered Rose' is said to have the most intriguing fragrance. I have never found one so I can't speak from experience. One of the least fragrant in spite of its intriguing label is 'Attar of Roses'. It is disappointing to find so little fragrance in so beautiful a plant. It is sturdy and well-shaped, and a number of them make an attractive edging for a driveway.

The most fragrant of the rose geraniums is 'Rober's Lemon Rose'. I once had a large stand of it, but during the years it dwindled away from me, then some months ago my gardener brought me a branch from one of his other gardens. If ever an odor was alert and alive, this one is; once you release the oils by gently rubbing the rough leaf, you can hardly stop sniffing it! I wanted to make many cuttings but, as frequently happens, the branch was very poor cutting material. I did, however, achieve one good plant, which has given me one perfect leaf to compare with the diagram in Helen Van Pelt Wilson's geranium book. When set into the earth my 'Lemon Rose' will grow to be a large plant, and with judicious pruning become a handsome bush. Save the leaves from your prunings for they dry with a sharp fragrance that lasts, and would be a wonderful addition to any potpourri or sachet.

If you have never known the delight of having any of these fragrant leaves, begin searching among the trays of little plants at your nursery and see how many you can bring to light. □

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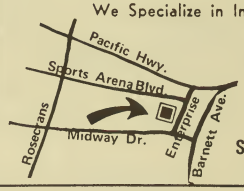

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In keeping with the celebration of our 70TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY, we are presenting two articles from a 1910 issue of "California Garden"

Ed's note: It is interesting to note that in spite of the years that have past, the information is still topical.

the garden and the weed

by *Alfred D. Robinson* †

CONTRARY TO THE generally accepted idea, weeds in this community must be considered as the friend rather than the enemy of the average gardener, even as the modern physician is inclined to regard a cold in the light of a danger signal and safety valve. The general outcry against weeds is an indication of a wrong attitude towards the garden. It stands for a garden with the least possible labor, not the best garden with all the labor necessary to make it so. It shows a failure to realize that in the labor of the garden lies the greatest return to the gardener.

Upon cultivated soil grows the greater crop of weeds the following year if left fallow—a marked testimony to the value of cultivation. Where weeds don't grow, we know the soil must be treated before anything else will. Passing through the country, we note a big growth of mustard and we say the land is rich; we come to a hard polished almost barren stretch and exclaim, hardpan and a pretty hard proposition indeed; we note a low-lying spot, covered with a green

rushy carpet, and immediately have visions of an alfalfa field. Our friends, the weeds, have ordered it so that he who runs may read.

But it is more with the presence of the weeds in our gardens that we are endeavoring to deal. It may be generally stated as an axiom that no weeds will ever attain any size in a garden that is sufficiently cultivated, and that if it were not for the weeds, few gardens would receive enough attention in this particular. The weed may, even without a great stretch of the imagination, be regarded as a savior in the vegetable kingdom, which offers itself as a sacrifice for the good of the flower. One of the commonest and most persistent of our weeds is the burr clover, a terror in a lawn it is admitted; yet we now plant it very extensively to turn in as a green manure, and year by year its value is more recognized.

Many garden flowers in one locality are weeds in another.

It is not to be denied, nor is there any desire to do so, that we have obnoxious weeds that have no apparent excuse for living. This may be because we have not discovered their use, but it is stoutly affirmed that in the present mental condition of the average gardener, it would be most unsafe to dispense with the weed in floricultural economy. □

as to potting

by *Alfred D. Robinson* †

VERY FEW PEOPLE, even those who should be and possibly are well informed, give sufficient attention to the details necessary to give a potted plant the conditions suitable to its best growth. Starting with the pot, this should be clean and soaked in water before use; and the reasons therefor are that roots stick to an unclean one, making repotting difficult, and soaking prevents the pot absorbing the moisture intended for the soil. Good drainage is an absolute necessity and is insured by placing a broken piece of pot over the hole with an inch or so of coarse gravel above this; covered by a layer of moss to keep the soil from choking it up. Most people use too large a pot; the dimensions should be such as to nicely accommodate the root system. If larger, the unoccupied soil is apt to sour, for freshly potted plants must be kept wet till established. Moreover, most plants bloom best where the pot is filled with roots. Ferns and begonias thrive in a moisture of leaf mold and sand (say two-thirds of the former and one-third of the latter, which should be coarse), and in potting the soil should not be pressed down too tightly. Their roots run best in a loose mixture. For most other plants a good proportion of loam should be added, avoiding a soil that has a tendency to bake and ball, and it should be firmed with the thumbs, leaving the surface rounded towards the middle and plenty of room for watering. The object of this rounding is to prevent the water settling round the stem and rotting it. Where possible, plants should be moved with a ball of earth, but in cases where this cannot be done the roots should be spread and not wadded together in a tight mass. It is a safe course not to use any fertilizer in a potting mixture, as till the plant establishes itself it cannot use it and it is a source of danger. All freshly potted things need protection from sun and wind for a time, and in fact it is detrimental to an established plant to have the sun strike directly on the pot. In this climate most things do better in boxes than in pots, more especially ferns, but the wood should not be painted or otherwise treated so as to destroy its porous quality. Redwood is very satisfactory and durable. The drainage hole or holes must not be forgotten in the making. □

Anemone

BROTHERS UNDER THE SKIN

by *Mary Elizabeth Bauhan*

BOTH THE ANEMONE and the ranunculas are members of the buttercup or crowfoot family, Ranunculaceae. Their common ancestry makes them brothers under the skin. The name anemone is Greek, "a flower disturbed by the wind", hence this is often referred to as the windflower. Ranunculus comes from the Latin for "little frog", because in the wild it grows in the meadows and marshlands along with the frogs.

The buttercup family, a natural group of herbs, is a large one and of some horticultural importance. It is comprised of about 40 genera and 1500 known species, mostly of the north temperate zone. Species of both anemone and ranunculus have been introduced into southern California and may be found in many of our gardens. Their vibrant colors and their value as cut flowers have endeared them to us and assured them a permanent place.

The anemone or windflower is a flower for all seasons, with species appropriate for the wildflower garden, the rock garden and the perennial border. Its showy cup-shaped flowers in white, pink, purple or red make it a great favorite. Two species, the Japanese anemone, *A. japonica*, and the poppy-flowered anemone, *A. coronaria*, are popular in southern California with the amateur as well as the commercial grower.

The autumn blooming *A. japonica* is easily propagated from root cuttings, and easily grown in the open border. Plant the divisions in spring, in moist soil containing humus, in a shaded area of the border or other protected spot. Do not let them dry out—frequent watering in summer is essential. Mulching helps to retain moisture.

Though Japanese anemones do not take kindly to being disturbed they will tolerate careful division. This species has some enemies such as the blister beetle, which can be controlled by spraying.

The spring-flowering *A. coronaria* comes in both single and double forms. Most of today's hybrids originated from *A. coronaria, A. hortensis* and *A. fulgens*. Best known is the St. Brigid strain, a name used commercially though it has no botanical standing. Its buttercup-shaped flowers come in a delightful array of colors.

In cold climates this anemone can be brought into bloom in winter in a greenhouse. In California it is grown outdoors. Plant the tubers in rich loamy soil in a well drained sunny location. If temperature drops to the frost level, protect by a covering of leaves or other material. *A. coronaria* is subject to rust. Diseased parts should be removed from affected plants.

The ranunculus may be an annual, biennial or perennial herb. Like the anemone, it belongs to the buttercup family. It is widely distributed geo-

Ranunculus

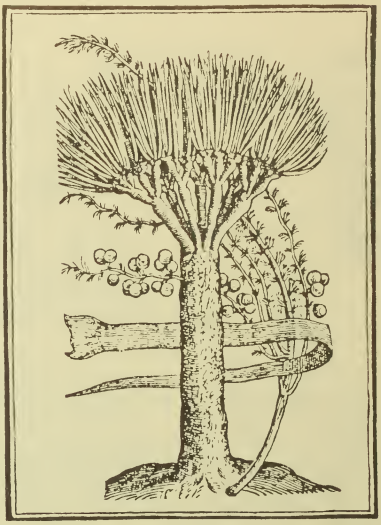
graphically, in the wild. A few of the many species have been modified under cultivation into variously colored forms and doubles. Some wild species are often called weeds because they become nuisances as creeping plants with long runners.

Cultivated forms are used both in the flower border and in the rock garden. *Ranunculus repens*, for example, while itself considered a weed, has a cultivar form, 'Pleniflorus' which is characterized by a profusion of double flowers and is widely grown as a garden plant.

The best known ranunculus is *R. asiaticus,* sometimes called Persian or turban ranunculus. Here in California it is commonly called simply "ranunculus". Its colors range from white through cream, yellow, pink and orange to red.

Tubers of ranunculus are available for planting in the fall. Plant with the prongs or "fingers" down, in a sunny place. Young shoots, which resemble celery, must be protected from birds.

Both anemones and ranunculus bring rich rewards, with many weeks of brilliant bloom. □

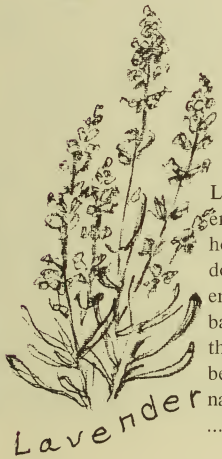


THE DRAGON TREE

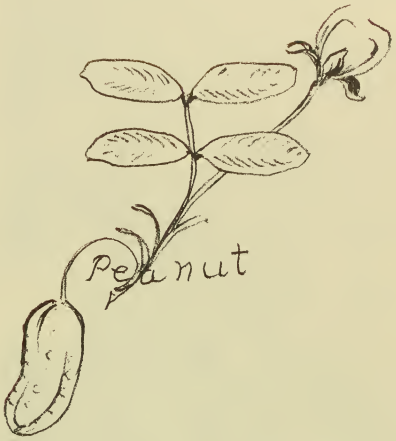
THERE IS AN ANCIENT LEGEND IN THE SOLOMAN ISLANDS THAT THE FIRST DRAGON TREE (Dracaena draco) GREW FROM THE GRAVE OF THE SEAMONSTER PAU TANGALU. IN THE SOUTH SEA ISLES IT WAS BELIEVED TO BE THE MOST POTENT MAGIC PLANT THAT COULD BE USED FOR ANY OCCASION. THEY CALLED THE DARK RED RESIN EXUDED BY THE TREE ITSELF, ITS LEAVES AND ITS SCALE COVERED CHERRY SIZED FRUITS DRAGON'S BLOOD.

VENETIEAN MERCHANTS CARRIED THIS DRAGON'S BLOOD TO EUROPE WHERE IT WAS USED BY DESERTED WIVES AND MAIDENS AS A LOVE INCENSE IN MEDIEVAL TIMES. THE BELIEF WAS THAT IF THEY BURNED DRAGON'S BLOOD NEAR AN OPEN WINDOW OF THEIR BEDROOM FOR SEVEN CONSECUTIVE MIDNIGHTS, THE ESCAPING FUMES WOULD BRING BACK A STRAYING HUSBAND OR LOVER---SOONER OR LATER.

"did you know....." B.K.



LAVENDER flowers have been enjoyed for centuries. Medieval housewives used them as we do–amongst our linens. Lavender essence was used in the baths of ancient Rome. From this use in the lavatory it became known as lavender. We named the color for the flower .....did you know that?



AN EX-SLAVE, George Washington Carver, did more for the peanut than can be described in one short paragraph. He found it equaled steak for protein, potatoes for carbohydrates, and was second only to butter in fat. From peanuts Dr. Carver made wine. soap, face powder, shaving creams, shampoos, paints, fertilizers, plastics, artificial wool, medicines, and many other things. Perhaps President Carter has found a few more things to do with peanuts!

TO MAKE IT EASIER to see small seeds shaken into a furrow or seedbed, place them in a clean salt shaker with enough talcum powder to coat them. This also saves seed because it gives more even distribution and reduces the need for thinning.

THE BEST WAY to get real enjoyment out of a garden is to put on a straw hat, dress in old clothes, hold a trowel in one hand and a cool drink in the other, and tell the man where to dig. **NOT really!**

THE MINTS have been superlative plants since Biblical times. The Pharisees paid tithes of mint. The name "mint" refers to "Menthe" a river nymph, who, according to Greek mythology, was changed to these plants by a jealous goddess.

TELETIP

New Garden Service for San Diego County

University of California Cooperative Extension now offers free garden help to county residents via telephone, in the form of taped messages. Nearly 300 tapes provide basic information and try to answer the most frequently asked questions about fruit trees, pest control, lawn care, vegetables, food preservation and a long list of other topics.

You may call the TELETIP operator and ask for a complete subject index.

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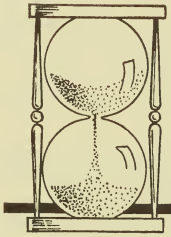
A cultural calendar of care from our affiliates–

compiled by *Penny Bunker*



NOW IS THE TIME

BONSAI Dr. Herbert Markowitz

- ✓ to adjust your watering schedule—keep moist. On hot days, spray after the temperature has cooled in the evening.
- ✓ to move deciduous trees to a cool, shaded area if you live in southern California.
- ✓ to trim and shape your deciduous trees.
- ✓ to feed young trees carefully, using 1/3 strength, to encourage the new growth.
- ✓ to transplant carefully—best to wait until spring for any major transplantings. Can repot quince, olive, and podocarpus.
- ✓ to transplant wisteria if you desire blossoms next spring.
- ✓ to trim and clean up the conifers and pines.

BROMELIADS Dr. Norman Lurie

- ✓ to protect plants from hot winds—shading them from intense heat, and do morning misting.
- ✓ to keep surrounding areas damp to maintain humidity.
- ✓ to maintain pest control—treat for snails or scale if necessary.
- ✓ to remove offsets to increase the plants.
- ✓ to flush out plants and keep moist.
- ✓ to feet roots and foliage with ½ strength balanced fertilizer.
- ✓ to keep blooming plants indoors or where it is cool, so the inflorescence lasts longer.

CACTUS & SUCCULENTS Verna Pasek

- ✓ to keep the moisture level up if Santa Ana winds occur.
- ✓ to guard against insects, snails, and protect new growth from sun scald.
- ✓ to watch for scale and mealybug. Spray with full strength alcohol or dab on with cotton swabs.
- ✓ to give a feeding of low nitrogen fertilizer.
- ✓ to divide overgrown plants and propagate new growth to increase collection; can share or trade with friends.
- ✓ to repot older rootbound plants—look for roots growing out of drainage holes.

CAMELLIAS Les Baskerville

- ✓ to disbud, leaving no more than one bud to a tip.
- ✓ to keep plants moist—do not allow plants to dry out during hot, dry windy weather.
- ✓ to start monthly feeding of 2-10-10 fertilizer.
- ✓ to give a feeding of iron.
- ✓ to maintain a regular spraying program.

DAHLIAS Abe Janzen

- ✓ to keep a regular watering program until the first of October, then gradually cut down.
- ✓ to watch for red spider and mildew—to maintain a regular preventive spraying program.
- ✓ to feed with potash in October only, to promote healthy root growth. Also, helps tubers keep better during the winter months.

EPIPHYLLUMS Mary & Warren Kelly

- ✓ to overhaul plants—trim out all dead growth. Some die-back is natural.
- ✓ to stake growing plants and tie carefully to trellis if growing upright.
- ✓ to repot any overcrowded plants.
- ✓ to still take cuttings in September—July and August are best months.
- ✓ to spray mist to provide moisture during a warm spell and to keep stems clean and free of dust.
- ✓ to check for snails and slugs; the new "Sluggeta" works.
- ✓ to spray with insecticide such as malathion for insect control during winter months.
- ✓ to fertilize with 5-5-5 once more before winter rest period.

FERNS Ray Sodomka

- ✓ to protect from hot sun—check the sun angle for placing shade cloth and laths.
- ✓ to water and maintain humidity by keeping surrounding areas damp during Santa Ana wind time.
- ✓ to fertilize plants regularly, using a high-nitrogen fertilizer.
- ✓ to spray for scale and aphids; keep snails, pill-bugs and slugs under control.
- ✓ to plant fern spore.
- ✓ to trim off dead fronds.

(cont. on page 158)

(NOW IS THE TIME continued from page 157)

FUCHSIAS William Selby

- ✓ to start planning ahead for new plants for next year.
- ✓ to take cuttings from good healthy branches, using only the tender tip growth; October is better to propagate new plants.
- ✓ to keep cuttings wet, but not soggy wet.
- ✓ to keep cuttings in a cool place for 4 to 6 days, then move to a warm location, but NOT direct sunlight.
- ✓ to keep growing plants moist, but slack off on feeding to give them a rest.
- ✓ to combat insects—spray as required and be sure to set the underside of leaves where they hide and lay their eggs.
- ✓ to mist on hot muggy days—early morning hours or late in evening when plants have cooled.

GERANIUMS Carol Roller

- ✓ to continue feeding with a balanced fertilizer in liquid form lightly, but regularly.
- ✓ to water carefully, decreasing the amount when cooler temperatures arrive.
- ✓ to keep plants free of debris by removing faded flowers and discolored leaves.
- ✓ to continue pest and disease control by using products according to manufacturers' directions.
- ✓ to begin pruning. On regals and similar types, at least one leaf should remain on each stem.
- ✓ to make cuttings and give them shelter from extreme elements.
- ✓ to continue rotating plants at regular intervals for symmetrical shape.

HEMEROCALLIS (Daylilies) Sanford Roberts

- ✓ to water only if soil is dry. Extremely hot days and copious watering can induce rot easily. Once soft rot has begun in a clump, the only salvation is digging entire clump, drying out fans, burying in sand that is not moist, then replanting in late fall.
- ✓ to prepare planting areas for next spring's plants. Spade deeply and incorporate organic compost. Mix thoroughly.
- ✓ to remove dead bloomstalks and foliage to clean growth from aphids and other chewing insects that may seek refuge in masses or spent foliage.
- ✓ to plant seeds in good potting soil in 4-inch pots or larger, and water soil thoroughly to promote satisfactory germination. Wait until warm days of spring before planting seedlings in garden.
- ✓ to wait until February to divide crowded clumps. Better growth is obtained by early spring division and replanting.

IRIS San Diego-Imperial Counties Iris Society

- ✓ to plant beardless iris. Keep moist until well established. Japanese and Louisianas are grown in pools.
- ✓ to still divide and plant clumps of tall bearded iris.
- ✓ to feed established tall bearded beds.
- ✓ to control slugs and snails.
- ✓ to plant Dutch iris in October for spring bloom.

ORCHIDS Charlie Fouquette

- ✓ to spray and mist during Santa Ana weather; maintain humidity and moisture.
- ✓ to start feeding cymbidiums low-nitrogen fertilizer—buds are forming now.
- ✓ to feed phalaenopsis a 3-1-2 fertilizer.
- ✓ to keep "phals" and vandacious plants moist as they have no water storage facilities.
- ✓ to watch for too much light and sunburn on plants—that is, look for holes in shade cloth, whitewash bare on windows or glass.
- ✓ to watch that cattleyas forming sheaths are not crowded and face them toward the light. Stake and support.
- ✓ to make sure egitant oncidiums are misted in morning, possibly in afternoon, but dried out by nightfall, and have plenty of air circulation.
- ✓ to watch that nobile dendrobiums are not sunburned.
- ✓ to start thinking about heater controls, patching leaks, insulation, hot water-pumps, etc. Check hot water tanks, tubing and electrical connections, and thermostats. See that furnace is clean, check pilot and burner flue for any spider webs, etc.

ROSES Dr. Robert Linck

- ✓ to beware of hot, dry winds and protect roses with plenty of water.
- ✓ to clean up any debris, especially spent foliage, from around the rose bushes.
- ✓ to give bushes a low-nitrogen food in late October to promote hardening.
- ✓ to spray with malathion or sevin for budworm control.
- ✓ to begin preventive spraying with Parnon or Benlate for mildew control.

VEGETABLES George James

- ✓ to plant seeds of those vegetables that do best when days are short and nights cool—such as beets, carrots, kohlrabi, lettuce, radish, rutabaga, and spinach.
- ✓ to thin seedlings of above as directed on seed packet.
- ✓ to set started plants of broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, Chinese cabbage, chard, kale, and lettuce.
- ✓ to look for information about new varieties of vegetables that are superior to those now grown. Being new doesn't always mean better, so look for statements that explain why the new variety is better than those commonly grown.

GREEN THUMB ITEMS California Green Thumb Society

- ✓ to prepare bulb beds with good humus.
- ✓ to feed lawns and sow bare patches.
- ✓ to plant winter sweetpeas.
- ✓ to fertilize mums until color shows.
- ✓ to divide Shasta daisies and transplant Belladonna lilies after blooming.
- ✓ to feed established plants with a balanced fertilizer; water thoroughly.
- ✓ to mulch with peat moss or ground bark around acid-loving plants such as azaleas, camellias, fuchsias in ground or large containers.
- ✓ to plant perennials for spring color.

Clarkia—a native and lovely wild flower was named for William Clark of the Lewis & Clark Expedition.

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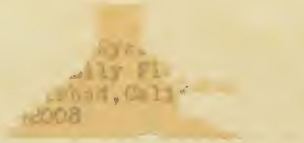

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